

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1189

By Davis

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Shirley B. Underwood on the celebration of her 85th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those honorable colleagues who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, retired Judge of the Juvenile Court of Johnson City Shirley B. Underwood will celebrate her 85th birthday on May 3, 2006, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Baumgardner Underwood was born on May 3, 1921, and is a 1939 graduate of Bristol Tennessee High School; she received a bachelor's degree in 1943 from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, with majors in Political Science and Economics; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Underwood received her Doctorate of Jurisprudence in August of 1948 from the University of Tennessee College of Law at Knoxville; she was admitted to the Tennessee and Federal Bars later that year and went on to become the first female judge in Tennessee who was licensed to practice law when appointed to the bench; and

WHEREAS, from 1948 to 1958, Shirley Underwood practiced law in Bristol at the firm headed by her father, the late John Dixon Baumgardner; in 1956, she was married to Dr. Charles T.R. Underwood, physician and surgeon; and

WHEREAS, she was admitted to the United States Supreme Court on June 22, 1964, and on May 18, 1974, she received her Certificate in Correctional Administration from the University of Southern California, which covered nine months of study; and

WHEREAS, a firm believer in the value of education, Shirley Underwood continued her graduate work in 1987 at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and in 1992 at the University of Glasgow, Scotland; she also attended National Judge College in Reno, Nevada, in 1999; and

WEHREAS, Shirley Underwood rendered invaluable service to the citizens of Tennessee as the first female appointed in 1961 by Governor Buford Ellington as Judge of the Juvenile Court of Johnson City, after being endorsed by all five members of the City Commission; she was subsequently re-elected to five succeeding terms; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of her profession, Shirley Underwood is renowned for her peerless commitment to public service and is highly esteemed by her colleagues. She was a member of the Washington County, Tennessee, and American Bar Associations; the Tennessee and National Council of Juvenile Court Judges; and past president of the Institute of Southern Juvenile Court Judges; from July 1978 to July 1981, she served on and chaired a number of executive committees for the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges, and from 1990 she has been a current member of the Dean's Circle at the University of Tennessee College of Law; and

WHEREAS, an active and involved member of society, Shirley Underwood served with distinction as a member of the Monday Club, the National Association of Female Executives, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Johnson City Country Club; she is a Past President of the Tri-County Medical Auxiliary, the Rocky Mount Historical Association, and the Johnson City Business and Professional Women's Club and a University of Tennessee (UT) life member of the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, Alpha Kappa Chapter; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Shirley Underwood has been listed in *Personalities of the South*, *The World Who's Who of Women*, and *Who's Who in American Law*; in 1994, she was named Outstanding Juvenile Court Judge in the United States by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and she was also paid tribute by Tennessee First District Congressman, James H. Quillen, on the floor of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Shirley B. Underwood has been recognized time and time again throughout her career for her commitment to the sacred and estimable principles of justice and equity; she was honored from 1970 to 1973 as the first female ever elected by the UT Alumni of the First Congressional District as their representative on the Board of Governors; in 1974, she was named one of thirty-five correctional officials in the United States to attend the Institute for Criminal Justice Executives at the University of Southern California; she was named by the UT

Pan-Hellenic as one of nineteen outstanding graduates of UT and one of Tennessee's Outstanding Women; from 1978 to 1988, she was appointed by Governor Lamar Alexander to the Tennessee Juvenile Justice Advisory Commission; in 2002, she was the first female UT Law graduate to have her name placed on a large classroom; and in 2003, she was honored by UT as its Notable Graduate for 2002; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Underwood is an active and devout member of Central Baptist Church in Johnson City, which she has served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Underwood epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Shirley Underwood demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate retired Judge of the Juvenile Court of Johnson City Shirley Baumgardner Underwood on the celebration of her 85th birthday, thank her for her exemplary service to the citizens of Johnson City and the great State of Tennessee, and extend to her our heartfelt wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.